

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of dynamically configuring a cardinality of keyword attributes having executable instructions, comprising the steps of:

generating receiving a table having a table schema comprising an identification field, a keyword field, and a keyword value field;

inserting a first value into the table wherein the first value is part of the keyword value field and associated with a first keyword which is part of the keyword field;

inserting a second value into the table wherein the second value is part of the keyword value field and associated with the first keyword; and

associating a first identification which is part of the identification field with the first keyword, the first value, and the second value within the table schema, and wherein the first keyword includes at least two field names, wherein each field name is associated with a separate external table and each field name is also associated with one of the first or second values of the keyword value field and second values are not index values or offset values.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
ensuring the table schema remains unchanged after the insertions into the table.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
establishing a first row of the table to house the first identification, the first keyword, and the first value; and

establishing a second row of the table to house the first identification, the first keyword, and the second value.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
creating a composite table key from the identification field, the keyword field, and the keyword value field.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the fields of the table are operable to be searched.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first value is not equal to the second value.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a cardinality between the keyword field and the keyword value field is a one-to-many relationship.
8. (Currently Amended) A method of expanding a table schema without modifying the table schema having executable instructions, comprising the steps of:
generating receiving a table schema having an identification field, a keyword field, and a keyword value field; and
associating a first value and a second value of the keyword value field with a first keyword of the keyword field within the table schema, and wherein the first keyword includes a first field name associated with a first external table and a second field name associated with a second external table, and wherein the first field name is associated with the first value and the second field name is associated with the second value and second values are not index values or offset values.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:
creating a first table entry in a table defined by the table schema for the first keyword and the first value; and
creating a second table entry in the table defined by the table schema for the first keyword and the second value.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:
creating a composite key using each field of the table schema wherein the key is operable to access a table associated with the table schema.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:
creating a first and second table from the table schema;
inserting a first identification, the first keyword, and the first value into the first table;
inserting the first identification, the first keyword, and the first value into the second table; and
inserting the first identification, the first keyword, and the second value into the second table.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a search comprising the first identification, the first keyword and the second value;
searching the first table to acquire a first location; and
searching the second table beginning at the first location within the second table until the second value is located.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising the steps of:
returning a row of the second table wherein the second value is housed.
14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein searching the first table improves access into the second table to retrieve the row.
15. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:
creating a first and a second row of a table to house the first and the second values, respectively, each row housing the first identification and the first keyword.
16. (Currently Amended) A method of expanding a keyword by permitting one or more keyword values to be associated with each keyword having executable instructions, comprising the steps of:

generating receiving a table having an identification field, a keyword field, and a keyword value field, wherein the table includes a table schema; and

receiving a first keyword associated with the keyword field and having a first value and a second value, each value associated with the keyword value field within the table schema, and wherein the first and second values are associated with a first external table field name and a second external table field name, respectively, and wherein first and second external table field names are housed in the keyword field not index values or offset values.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising the steps of:
creating a key to access the table wherein the key is comprised of the identification field, the keyword field, and the keyword value field.
18. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:
searching a second table with the key to acquire a location within the table to being a search.
19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein a performance of the search of the table is improved using the location and the key.
20. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising the steps of:
returning a row associated with the table when the key is found within the table.